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Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991): United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

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Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General of 20 July 1999 (A/53/1023) on his efforts to recover the overpayment of mission subsistence allowance in the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided the Committee with additional information and clarifications.

2. The Advisory Committee points out that this matter has been ongoing since 1993 and that the amount of overpayment of mission subsistence allowance by UNIKOM has been revised several times in various reports of the Secretary-General. Indeed, the Committee was informed that in a number of instances information provided to the Committee in the past was not correct.

3. As indicated in paragraph 29 of the Secretary-General's report, it would be the intention to recover the allo[illegible]ace only in respect of civilian staff; recoveries from military observers would be halted and those already effected would be reimbursed to the individuals concerned, with some exceptions.

4. In the opinion of the Committee, the Administration's mishandling of this matter has created, at the least, an unfortunate perception that both the military observers and the staff have been treated unfairly in the past and that the staff continues to be treated unfairly.

5. However, this is a very complicated case, which has been, and still is, in litigation. The Advisory Committee believes that no action should be taken by the General Assembly pending the outcome of the judiciary process, during which the facts of the case are expected to be clarified. The Advisory Committee points out that, in accordance with current

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procedures, it receives the text of all judgements of the Administrative Tribunal. The Advisory Committee intends to revert to the matter in that context and to inform the General Assembly as appropriate.